

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 1998

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In the last four years, there have been five Congressional hearings on the harvesting and sale of human organs extracted from executed prisoners in the People's Republic of China. Most recently, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and the Committee on International Relations conducted joint hearings on this subject. We ask that you protest this deplorable practice directly to President Jiang during the upcoming summit in Beijing.

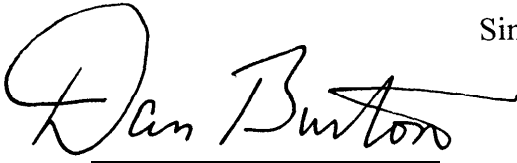
In testimony before our Committees, the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor acknowledged that a substantial body of credible evidence indicates that organs are removed from executed prisoners and sold to foreign and Chinese patients in need of transplant. This conclusion is supported by the testimony of several witnesses who appeared before our Committees, including a former prison official who personally observed the removal of organs at an execution site, a Thai patient who purchased and received a kidney from an executed prisoner, and a human rights activist who videotaped an alleged transaction to purchase a prisoner's organ, which is now the basis for a federal prosecution in New York.

There are several indications that the government of China not only tolerates but actually regulates this practice. In 1984, several agencies of the central government promulgated regulations on the use of executed prisoners' organs. In addition, the government of China provides visas for patients, permits organ extraction on government controlled execution grounds, provides transportation of the organs or corpses to government-run hospitals, and permits government physicians to perform the transplant surgery.

The government of China has stated that organs are removed from executed prisoners only with the consent of the prisoner or the prisoner's family. Its position, however, is contradicted by the testimony of witnesses before our Committees.

We look forward to learning of the outcome of your discussions with President Jiang on this and other important human rights issues at the Beijing Summit.

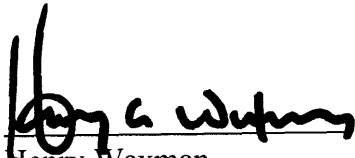
Sincerely,



Dan Burton
Chairman
Committee on Government
Reform & Oversight



Benjamin A. Gilman
Chairman
Committee on International
Relations



Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Government
Reform & Oversight